

Amendments to the Claims:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for producing a cordierite honeycomb structure comprising the step of firing a honeycomb formed body, the step comprising:

for a temperature range from 1200°C to 1250°C, using a first temperature rise rate;

for a temperature range from 1250°C to 1300°C, using a second temperature rise rate;

for a temperature range from 1300°C to 1400°C, using a third temperature rise rate; and

the second temperature rise rate being smaller than both the first and third temperature rise ~~rates~~rates,

wherein the first and third temperature rise rates are equal to or greater than 50°C/hour, and the second temperature rise rate is between 2 and 30°C/hour.

2-6. (Canceled)

7. (Previously Presented) A method for producing a honeycomb structure according to Claim 1, wherein firing is performed after inserting slurry for plugging into the formed body under pressure.

8-10. (Canceled)